

EDUCATIONAL FUNCTIONING LEVEL DESCRIPTORS FOR PS45 LITERACY AND NUMERACY GAINS STANDARD¹

| Educational Functioning Level Descriptors — Adult Basic Education Levels | | | |
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| Literacy Level | Basic Reading and Writing | Numeracy Skills | Functional and Workplace Skills |
| BEGINNING ABE LITERACY Test Benchmark: TABE (5-6) scale scores (grade level 0-1.9): Total reading: 529 and below Total math: 540 and below Total language: 599 and below TABE (7-8 and 9-10) scale scores (grade level 0-1.9): Reading: 367 and below Total Math: 313 and below Language: 391 and below CASAS (Life Skills): 200 and below AMES (B, ABE) scale scores (grade level 0-1.9): Reading: 500 and below Total Math: 476 and below Communication: 496 and below ABLE scale scores (grade level 0-1.9): Reading: 523 and below Math: 521 and below | Individual has no or minimal reading and writing skills. May have little or no comprehension of how print corresponds to spoken language and may have difficulty using a writing instrument. At the upper range of this level, individual can recognize, read and write letters and numbers, but has a limited understanding of connected prose and may need frequent re-reading. Can write a limited number of basic sight words and familiar words and phrases; may also be able to write simple sentences or phrases, including very simple messages. Can write basic personal information. Narrative writing is disorganized and unclear; inconsistently uses simple punctuation (e.g., periods, commas, question marks); contains frequent errors in spelling. | Individual has little or no recognition of numbers or simple counting skills or may have only minimal skills, such as the ability to add or subtract single-digit numbers. | Individual has little or no ability to read basic signs or maps, can provide limited personal information on simple forms. The individual can handle routine entry level jobs that require little or no basic written communication or computational skills and no knowledge of computers or other technology. |
| BEGINNING BASIC EDUCATION Test Benchmark: TABE (5-6) scale scores (grade level 2-3.9): Total reading: 530-679 Total math: 541-677 Total language: 600-677 TABE (7-8 and 9-10): scale scores (grade level 2-3.9): Reading: 368-460 Total Math: 314-441 Language: 392-490 CASAS (Life Skills): 201-210 AMES (B, ABE) scale scores (grade level 2-3.9): Reading: 503-510 Total Math: 477-492 Communication: 498-506 ABLE scale scores (grade level 2-3.9): Reading: 525-612 Math: 530-591 | Individual can read simple material on familiar subjects and comprehend simple and compound sentences in single or linked paragraphs containing a familiar vocabulary; can write simple notes and messages on familiar situations, but lacks clarity and focus. Sentence structure lacks variety, but shows some control of basic grammar (e.g., present and past tense), and consistent use of punctuation (e.g., periods, capitalization). | Individual can count, add and subtract three-digit numbers, can perform multiplication through 12; can identify simple fractions and perform other simple arithmetic operations. | Individual is able to read simple directions, signs and maps, fill out simple forms requiring basic personal information, write phone messages and make simple change. There is minimal knowledge of, and experience with, using computers and related technology. The individual can handle basic entry level jobs that require minimal literacy skills; can recognize very short, explicit, pictorial texts, e.g., understands logos related to worker safety before using a piece of machinery; can read want ads and complete simple job applications. |

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| <p>LOW INTERMEDIATE BASIC EDUCATION Test benchmark: TABE (5-6) scale scores (grade level 4-5.9): Total reading: 680-722 Total math: 678-729 Total language: 678-705 TABE (7-8 and 9-10) scale scores (grade level 4-5.9): Reading: 461-517 Total Math: 442-505 Language: 491-523 CASAS (Life Skills): 211-220 AMES (B and C, ABE) scale scores (grade level 4-5.9): Reading (B): 511-609 Reading (C): 514-521 Total Math (B): 494-603 Total Math (C): 493-508 Communication (B): 508-605, (C) 509-513 ABLE scale scores (grade level 4-5.9): Reading: 613-644 Math: 593-641</p> | <p>Individual can read text on familiar subjects that have a simple and clear underlying structure (e.g., clear main idea, chronological order); can use context to determine meaning; can interpret actions required in specific written directions, can write simple paragraphs with main idea and supporting detail on familiar topics (e.g., daily activities, personal issues) by recombining learned vocabulary and structures; can self and peer edit for spelling and punctuation errors.</p> | <p>Individual can perform with high accuracy all four basic math operations using whole numbers up to three digits; can identify and use all basic mathematical symbols.</p> | <p>Individual is able to handle basic reading, writing and computational tasks related to life roles, such as completing medical forms, order forms or job applications; can read simple charts, graphs, labels and payroll stubs and simple authentic material if familiar with the topic. The individual can use simple computer programs and perform a sequence of routine tasks given direction using technology (e.g., fax machine, computer operation). The individual can qualify for entry-level jobs that require following basic written instructions and diagrams with assistance, such as oral clarification; can write a short report or message to fellow workers; can read simple dials and scales and take routine measurements.</p> |
| <p>HIGH INTERMEDIATE BASIC EDUCATION Test benchmark: TABE (5-6) scale scores (grade level 6-8.9): Total reading: 723-761 Total math: 730-776 Total language: 706-730 TABE (7-8 and 9-10) scale scores (grade level 6-8.9): Reading: 518-566 Total Math: 506-565 Language: 524-559 CASAS (Life Skills): 221-235 AMES (C and D, ABE) scale scores (grade level 6-8.9): Reading (C): 525-612 Reading (D): 522-543 Total Math (C): 510-627 Total Math (D): 509-532 Communication (C): 516-611 Communication (D): 516-523 ABLE scale score (grade level 6-8.9): Reading: 646-680 Math: 643-693 WorkKeys scale scores: Reading for Information: 75-78 Writing: 75-77 Applied Mathematics: 75-77</p> | <p>Individual is able to read simple descriptions and narratives on familiar subjects or from which new vocabulary can be determined by context; can make some minimal inferences about familiar texts and compare and contrast information from such texts, but not consistently. The individual can write simple narrative descriptions and short essays on familiar topics; has consistent use of basic punctuation, but makes grammatical errors with complex structures.</p> | <p>Individual can perform all four basic math operations with whole numbers and fractions; can determine correct math operations for solving narrative math problems and can convert fractions to decimals and decimals to fractions; can perform basic operations on fractions.</p> | <p>Individual is able to handle basic life skills tasks such as graphs, charts, and labels, and can follow multi-step diagrams; can read authentic materials on familiar topics, such as simple employee handbooks and payroll stubs; can complete forms such as a job application and reconcile a bank statement. Can handle jobs that involve following simple written instructions and diagrams; can read procedural texts, where the information is supported by diagrams, to remedy a problem, such as locating a problem with a machine or carrying out repairs using a repair manual. The individual can learn or work with most basic computer software, such as using a word processor to produce own texts; can follow simple instructions for using technology.</p> |

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| <p>LOW ADULT SECONDARY EDUCATION Test benchmark: TABE (5-6) scale scores (grade level 9-10.9): Total reading: 762-775 Total math: 777-789 Total language: 731-743 TABE (7-8 and 9-10): scale scores (grade level 9-10.9): Reading: 567-595 Total Math: 566-594 Language: 560-585 CASAS (Life Skills): 236-245 AMES (E, ABE) scale scores (grade level 9-10.9): Reading: 544-561 Total Math: 534-548 Communication: 527-535 ABLE scale scores (grade level 9-10.9): Reading: 682-697 Math: 694-716 WorkKeys scale scores: Reading for Information: 79-81 Writing: 78-85 Applied Mathematics: 78-81</p> | <p>Individual can comprehend expository writing and identify spelling, punctuation and grammatical errors; can comprehend a variety of materials such as periodicals and non-technical journals on common topics; can comprehend library reference materials and compose multi-paragraph essays; can listen to oral instructions and write an accurate synthesis of them; can identify the main idea in reading selections and use a variety of context issues to determine meaning. Writing is organized and cohesive with few mechanical errors; can write using a complex sentence structure; can write personal notes and letters that accurately reflect thoughts.</p> | <p>Individual can perform all basic math functions with whole numbers, decimals, and fractions; can interpret and solve simple algebraic equations, tables, and graphs and can develop own tables and graphs; can use math in business transactions.</p> | <p>Individual is able or can learn to follow simple multi-step directions, and read common legal forms and manuals; can integrate information from texts, charts and graphs; can create and use tables and graphs; can complete forms, applications, and resumes; can perform jobs that require interpreting information from various sources and writing or explaining tasks to other workers; is proficient using computers and can use most common computer applications; can understand the impact of using different technologies; can interpret the appropriate use of new software and technology.</p> |
| <p>HIGH ADULT SECONDARY EDUCATION Test benchmark: TABE (5-6) scale scores (grade level 11-12.9): Total reading: 776 and above Total math: 790 and above Total language: 744 and above TABE (7-8 and 9-10): scale scores (grade level 11-12): Reading: 596 and above Total Math: 595 and above Language: 586 and above CASAS (Life Skills): 246 and higher AMES (E, ABE) scale scores (grade level 11-12): Reading: 565 and above Total Math: 551 and above Communication: 538 and above ABLE scale scores (grade level 11-12): Reading: 699 and above Math: 717 and above WorkKeys scale scores: Reading for Information: 82-90 Writing: 86-90 Applied Mathematics: 82-90</p> | <p>Individual can comprehend, explain, and analyze information from a variety of literacy works, including primary source materials and professional journals; can use context cues and higher order processes to interpret meaning of written material. Writing is cohesive with clearly expressed ideas supported by relevant detail; can use varied and complex sentence structures with few mechanical errors.</p> | <p>Individual can make mathematical estimates of time and space and can apply principles of geometry to measure angles, lines, and surfaces; can also apply trigonometric functions.</p> | <p>Individuals are able to read technical information and complex manuals; can comprehend some college level books and apprenticeship manuals; can function in most job situations involving higher order thinking; can read text and explain a procedure about a complex and unfamiliar work procedure, such as operating a complex piece of machinery; can evaluate new work situations and processes, can work productively and collaboratively in groups and serve as facilitator and reporter of group work. The individual is able to use common software and learn new software applications; can define the purpose of new technology and software and select appropriate technology; can adapt use of software or technology to new situations and can instruct others, in written or oral form on software and technology use.</p> |

Educational Functioning Level Descriptors – English-as-a-Second-Language Levels

| Literacy Level | Speaking and Listening | Basic Reading and Writing | Functional and Workplace Skills |
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| BEGINNING ESL LITERACY Test benchmark: CASAS (Life Skills): 180 and below SPL (Speaking): 0-1 SPL (Reading and Writing): 0-1 Oral BEST: 0-15 Literacy BEST: 0-7 | Individual cannot speak or understand English, or understands only isolated words or phrases. | Individual has no or minimal reading or writing skills in any language. May have little or no comprehension of how print corresponds to spoken language and may have difficulty using a writing instrument. | Individual functions minimally or not at all in English and can communicate only through gestures or a few isolated words, such as name and other personal information; may recognize only common signs or symbols (e.g., stop sign, product logos); can handle only very routine entry-level jobs that do not require oral or written communication in English. There is no knowledge or use of computers or technology. |
| BEGINNING ESL Test benchmark: CASAS (Life Skills): 181-200 SPL (Speaking): 2-3 SPL (Reading and Writing): 2-4 Oral BEST: 16-41 Literacy BEST: 8-46 | Individual can understand frequently used words in context and very simple phrases spoken slowly and with some repetition; there is little communicative output and only in the most routine situations; little or no control over basic grammar; survival needs can be communicated simply, and there is some understanding of simple questions. | Individual can recognize, read, and write numbers and letters, but has a limited understanding of connected prose and may need frequent re-reading; can write a limited number of basic sight words and familiar words and phrases; may also be able to write simple sentences or phrases, including very simple messages. Can write basic personal information. Narrative writing is disorganized and unclear; inconsistently uses simple punctuation (e.g., periods, commas, question marks); contains frequent errors in spelling. | Individual functions with difficulty in situations related to immediate needs and in limited social situations; has some simple oral communication abilities using simple learned and repeated phrases; may need frequent repetition; can provide personal information on simple forms; can recognize common forms of print found in the home and environment, such as labels and product names; can handle routine entry level jobs that require only the most basic written or oral English communication and in which job tasks can be demonstrated. There is minimal knowledge or experience using computers or technology. |
| LOW INTERMEDIATE ESL Test benchmark: CASAS (Life Skills): 201-210 SPL (Speaking): 4 SPL (Reading and Writing): 5 Oral BEST: 42-50 Literacy BEST: 47-53 | Individual can understand simple learned phrases and limited new phrases containing familiar vocabulary spoken slowly with frequent repetition; can ask and respond to questions using such phrases; can express basic survival needs and participate in some routine social conversations, although with some difficulty; has some control of basic grammar. | Individual can read simple material on familiar subjects and comprehend simple and compound sentences in single or linked paragraphs containing a familiar vocabulary; can write simple notes and messages on familiar situations, but lacks clarity and focus. Sentence structure lacks variety, but shows some control of basic grammar (e.g., present and past tense), and consistent use of punctuation (e.g., periods, capitalization). | Individual can interpret simple directions, schedules, signs, and maps; can fill out simple forms, but needs support on some documents that are not simplified; can handle routine entry-level jobs that involve some written or oral English communication, but in which job tasks can be demonstrated. Individual can use simple computer programs and can perform a sequence of routine tasks given directions using technology (e.g., fax machine, computer). |

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| HIGH INTERMEDIATE ESL Test benchmark: CASAS (Life Skills): 211-220 SPL (Speaking): 5 SPL (Reading and Writing): 6 Oral BEST: 51-57 Literacy BEST: 54-65 | Individual can understand learned phrases and short new phrases containing familiar vocabulary spoken slowly and with some repetition; can communicate basic survival needs with some help; can participate in conversation in limited social situations and use new phrases with hesitation; relies on description and concrete terms. There is inconsistent control of more complex grammar. | Individual can read text on familiar subjects that have a simple and clear underlying structure (e.g., clear main idea, chronological order); can use context to determine meaning; can interpret actions required in specific written directions, can write simple paragraphs with main idea and supporting detail on familiar topics (e.g., daily activities, personal issues) by recombining learned vocabulary and structures; can self and peer edit for spelling and punctuation errors. | Individual can meet basic survival and social needs, can follow some simple oral and written instruction and has some ability to communicate on the telephone on familiar subjects; can write messages and notes related to basic needs; complete basic medical forms and job applications; can handle jobs that involve basic oral instructions and written communication in tasks that can be clarified orally. The individual can work with or learn basic computer software, such as word processing; can follow simple instructions for using technology. |
| LOW ADVANCED ESL Test benchmark: CASAS (Life Skills): 221-235 SPL (Speaking): 6 SPL (Reading and Writing): 7 Oral BEST: 58-64 Literacy BEST: 66 and above | Individual can converse on many everyday subjects and some subjects with unfamiliar vocabulary, but may need repetition, rewording, or slower speech; can speak creatively, but with hesitation; can clarify general meaning by rewording and has control of basic grammar; understands descriptive and spoken narrative and can comprehend abstract concepts in familiar contexts. | Individual is able to read simple descriptions and narratives on familiar subjects or from which new vocabulary can be determined by context; can make some minimal inferences about familiar texts and compare and contrast information from such texts, but not consistently. The individual can write simple narrative descriptions and short essays on familiar topics, such as customs in native country; has consistent use of basic punctuation, but makes grammatical errors with complex structures. | Individual can function independently to meet most survival needs and can communicate on the telephone on familiar topics; can interpret simple charts and graphics; can handle jobs that require simple oral and written instructions, multi-step diagrams and limited public interaction. The individual can use all basic software applications, understand the impact of technology and select the correct technology in a new situation. |
| HIGH ADVANCED ESL Test benchmark: CASAS (Life Skills): 236-245 SPL (Speaking): 7 SPL (Reading and Writing): 8 Oral BEST: 65 and above | Individual can understand and participate effectively in face-to-face conversations on everyday subjects spoken at normal speed; can converse and understand independently in survival, work and social situations; can expand on basic ideas in conversation, but with some hesitation; can clarify general meaning and control basic grammar, although still lacks total control over complex structures. | Individual can read authentic materials on everyday subjects and can handle most reading related to life roles; can consistently and fully interpret descriptive narratives on familiar topics and gain meaning from unfamiliar topics; uses increased control of language and meaning-making strategies to gain meaning of unfamiliar texts. The individual can write multi-paragraph essays with a clear introduction and development of ideas; writing contains well-formed sentences, appropriate mechanics and spelling, and few grammatical errors. | Individual has a general ability to use English effectively to meet most routine social and work situations; can interpret routine charts, graphs, and tables and complete forms; has high ability to communicate on the telephone and understand radio and television; can meet work demands that require reading and writing and can interact with the public. The individual can use common software and learn new applications; can define the purpose of software and select new applications appropriately; can instruct others in use of software and technology. |

¹ Information on this table is adapted from information provided by the U.S. Departments of Labor and Education. The principal source is U.S. Department of Labor Training and Employment Guidance Letter (TEGL) 03-15, Attachment D. See: http://www.workforceatm.org/articles/template.cfm?results_art_filename=tegl1503.htm. Supplemental information regarding TABE tests 9 and 10 was provided by the U.S. Department of Education.